

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN

Supplemental Biographical Data

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Additional Quotable Quotes

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Bibliography (Prepared by CIA Library

at request of CI Staff

attached

(This document contains no classified information)

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN

SUPPLEMENTAL BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

1. Mr. Donovan was awarded an Honorary L. L. D. by Norwich University in 1923.
2. Mr. Donovan resigned as assistant prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials in November 1945.
3. The New York Times 29 April 1948 reported on a speech given by Mr. Donovan to 600 members of the Veterans of Strategic Services (VSS) who met 28 April to form the New York Chapter of VSS. The article stated that chapters had been formed in major cities from coast to coast.
4. Speaking over the Mutual Broadcasting network 18 March 1951 under the auspices of the Committee on the Present Danger, Mr. Donovan in describing Soviet subversive methods said "...we are faced by an enemy against whom we cannot lower our guard--a foe that is always alert and ruthless and tenacious".
5. A biographical sketch of Mr. Donovan in the New York Times stated he had been named in 1955 by President Eisenhower as a member of a seven-man committee to survey the problem of veterans' pensions.
6. New York Times 28 March 1956 published an article quoting from a report issued by Mr. Donovan, in behalf of the International Rescue Committee, exposing the "come home" campaign being carried on by the Soviet Union against refugees in the United States and elsewhere in the free world.
7. In one of the old OSS files an undated document was found titled "Assignment No. 2", bearing the name and containing a summary of data concerning OSS generally and specifically Mr. Donovan,

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most of it taken from other sources listed in an appended bibliography, from which it could be deduced that the document was prepared in 1948 or later. One portion of this document stated "The strength of the Japanese Kwantung Army in Manchuria was the one great intelligence slip-up in Asia during World War II...." On the margin of this page was written in longhand, "In May 1945 Gen. Donovan in Hsian, China, said that he had told Pres. Roosevelt that the Japanese were not strong in Manchuria but Roosevelt would not believe Donovan. I heard Donovan say this." This notation was signed by W. J. Morgan, believed to be identical with the author of The O.S.S. and I, William J. Morgan.

8. In a biographical sketch appearing in the New York Herald Tribune of 10 June 1945, occasioned by announcement of Mr. Donovan's appointment to a post with the German war crimes trials, it was stated that in working his way through college Mr. Donovan "bossed a street gang and ran a baking powder factory, and still had time to play football and run cross country". This same article says he likes baseball, dislikes banquets; likes to read standing up.

9. The attached bibliography prepared by the CIA Library indicates that Mr. Donovan has made many speeches and statements on a variety of topics of national and international interest as of the times they were made. Numerous trips abroad on official and legal business other than the ones previously mentioned are also indicated.

10. The following are excerpts from an article in Readers Digest of October 1947 by Frederic Sondern Jr.:

"'When in serious trouble', said Franklin D. Roosevelt to a White House aide shortly after Pearl Harbor, 'It's a good idea to send for Bill Donovan'. And the President, although William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan had been an outspoken anti-New Dealer and a bitter political foe for

years, reached for a phone. Government leaders, legislators, heads of industries, generals and others with heavy responsibilities have long felt that way about the soft-spoken, gray-haired lawyer, soldier and statesman who in comparative anonymity has played and is still playing so vital a part in the country's destiny.

"'To Donovan', a British intelligence chief once told me, 'nothing is impossible. He doesn't seem to know the meaning of the word'.

"It was typical of 'Wild Bill' to stand like a rock in the face of enemy fire and yell to his men 'They can't hit me, so they can't hit you either. Let's go'.

Donovan won his Congressional Medal near the French village of Landres, when he stayed in the front line after being seriously wounded, and had himself carried round on a stretcher while he reorganized his shattered command.

"'Donovan's high-speed brain', a close friend once said, 'puts in more working time than three normal ones'.

"Whether in a Congressional hearing or before the U.S. Supreme Court, he has never been known to be flustered or lose his temper. He speaks in a low but powerful voice, without apparent histrionics, but with an air of absolute authority.

"Once, at a grueling OSS staff meeting plotting future action against Germany, an irritated young Army officer flared: 'Good Lord, why don't we just drop into Berlin

and assassinate Hitler? It would all be much simpler.' Donovan raised his eyebrows and looked fixedly at the young man for a moment. 'Well', he said finally, 'why don't we?' He was stopped from trying only by a report from Allen Dulles, his chief agent in Switzerland, that some German officers were going to try it themselves.

"Donovan's influence on his men was enormous. Unlike most brass, he was always available and easy to talk to. He would keep colonels waiting while he consulted with a sergeant who had a bright idea. A flustered aide, on one occasion, was trying to get him to an important meeting at the War Department. But the General was talking to a nondescript little man with a foreign accent. 'Never mind, my boy', said Wild Bill to the aide a half hour later. 'That man is going to jump into Berlin pretty soon. The meeting isn't going anywhere; it can wait'. Donovan's enthusiasm, spontaneity and love of the different was quickly communicated all the way down the line. 'He made me feel', said one agent whom Donovan sent on a particularly dangerous mission into the Balkans, 'as though it was all going to be perfectly simple. He talked to me quietly for half an hour, and I walked out of his office convinced that I could do the job'. That is Donovan's way.

"'You can find out anything you want to know about anybody in the world,' Donovan once announced at a staff meeting, 'if you really want to'.

"'Whether we like it or not, we have many enemies in the world today', says Donovan. 'We must know exactly what they are doing'."

QUOTATIONS

11. The New York Herald Tribune of 10 April 1946 reporting on speech made to the Book and Author Luncheon sponsored by that newspaper and the American Booksellers Association, quoted Mr. Donovan as saying in part:

"I often wonder if the reason we have never had a consistent foreign policy is because we have never had a real intelligence service."

12. Reporting on a talk given by Mr. Donovan 11 April 1946 at a luncheon of the Philadelphia Community Crusade, he was quoted as follows:

Philadelphia Inquirer: "One reason why we never had an effective foreign policy was that we never had an intelligence department. The only true policy for America is to be strong, resolute and know where we are going. This means we must have a strong and effective 'secret service', one that will debate and determine, but not administer policies."

Philadelphia Evening Bulletin: "We need an intelligence service handled by American hands and seen by American eyes to insure the impartial gathering and evaluation of what is going on in other countries." "... we will never maintain the peace without sound information to work on. We have never had an affirmative foreign policy because we never had an intelligence service. We had to wait for other countries to act before we could form a counter-function. It is time we grew up."

Philadelphia Record: "Intelligence work is held in peculiar opinion in the United States. Most people think of it as a cloak and dagger business. In reality,

it is detailed and minute work. Intelligence is that service of information used by all nations to determine the policies and intents of other nations"....."Governmental policies can be no better than information upon which they are based"...."If we are not able to prevent war because of the atom bomb, let's at least have a knowledge of the facts".

13. The New York Times of 17 September 1946 reported on a speech made by Mr. Donovan to the Advertising Men's Post of the American Legion in which he criticized the then new National Intelligence Agency, calling it a "phony". It quoted him as stating it contained some of the elements which made the intelligence service the "Little Orphan Annie" of the government since time began. He stressed the importance of having an integrated intelligence service to face the Russian threat. He called for a strong intelligence agency as America's first line of defense.

14. The following is from an article datelined Berlin in the New York Times on 18 July 1948 covering an interview given by Mr. Donovan concerning the Berlin blockade while he was in Europe on a private trip (he emphasized he was not commenting officially):

"If the Russians are determined to have war, we might as well have it here as 500 miles back (to the West)", said General Donovan endorsing the idea that a show of force was necessary here to learn Soviet intentions. "I cannot believe the Russians want to fight as long as they can get what they want by other means."

15. The next day, 19 July 1948, the New York Times again quoted Mr. Donovan as follows:

"If she (the USSR) is only bluffing, now is the time to call the bluff. Whatever the Soviet intentions may be

the surest way to find out is for the Western Allies,
led by the United States, to take a firm stand on
Berlin now."

16. An item in the New York Times 31 May 1949 on the occasion
of Mr. Donovan's return from an extended tour of the Near East said:

"Donovan urged President Truman's 'Point 4' plan
to develop backward areas be used to combat the
spread of Communism in China and other Asiatic
countries" and he "...vigorously opposed sending
additional military aid to China". Mr. Donovan
"...held that by aiding development of these backward
countries the United States would achieve a double
purpose: it would destroy the conditions on which
Communism spreads and at the same time create
vast new markets for American businessmen."

17. From an article in the New York Times of 4 March 1950 comes
the statement that in an appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Com-
mittee, Mr. Donovan, speaking as chairman of the American Committee
for a United Europe, said he was "appalled that there was not a clearer
understanding among Americans that the outcome of this cold war we are
in is just as important to our children and grandchildren as was the out-
come of World War II". Speaking for the continuance of Marshall Plan
aid, Mr. Donovan called for the same initiative in Asia as undertaken in
Europe in 1948.

18. Mr. Donovan is quoted in the New York Times of 5 March 1950
as having told a group of student leaders at the Columbia College Forum
on Democracy luncheon the previous day:

"This country's government must be neither too strong
for its citizens nor too weak for its preservation. You
must impose certain regulations on some citizens in

order to attain security for all citizens. The people of this country should be secure in their persons, in their property and in their privacy."

19. The New York Times on 13 November 1952 quotes Mr. Donovan as stating at a dinner meeting to representatives of the Academy of Political Science:

"The way to prevent World War III is to win the subversive war the Soviets are already waging against us, of which the Korean war is only a part. To do this the American people must understand the nature of Soviet subversion and infiltration."

20. The New York Times of 10 December 1952, reporting on a speech by Mr. Donovan to students at Barnard College, quotes him as suggesting guerilla forces in Communist countries would be cheaper than wars of confinement such as Korea.